

Application No.: 10/717,910

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

APR 10 2007

New drawing sheets including Figs. 3 and 4 illustrate the radial slits 44.

Attachment: New Drawing Sheets

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Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated January 10, 2007, Applicants have amended the specification, the drawings, and claims 1-3, 6, and 8. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, specifically "radial slits." Fig. 3 shows the disk plate 41 having a plurality of radial slits 44 from the center toward the outer periphery of the sealing member 4. Fig. 4 illustrates a side elevational view of the slits 44 of the sealing member 4 expanding downward to be opened.

Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 3 and 6 were objected to for various informalities. Claims 3 and 6 have been amended to adopt the Examiner's suggested amendment.

Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as purportedly being indefinite.

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Claim 3 was rejected for reciting "the sealing member made of [an] elastic plate having a specified thickness." Claim 3 has been amended to recite, "...the sealing member made of an elastic plate having a reasonable thickness to expand the slits and return its initial position by an elastic property of itself" to clarify the thickness of the elastic plate.

Claim 2 was rejected for reciting "the outer periphery." The Office Action stated that it was not clear whether "the outer periphery" recited in line 9 of claim 2 was referring to the outer periphery of the opening of the vessel body or the outer periphery of the sealing member. Claim 2 has been amended to recite, "...the center toward an outer periphery of the sealing member."

Claim 2 was further rejected for reciting "upper outer periphery" and "lower outer periphery." Claim 2 has been amended to adopt the Examiner's suggested amendments.

Claim 2 was rejected for allegedly being unclear, specifically for reciting "an outer cylinder provided around the outer periphery of the substrate as its inner periphery **being in** contact with the outer periphery of the cap body; an inner cylinder provided along the through hole as its outer periphery **being in** contact with the inner periphery of the fixing member, the outer cylinder and the inner cylinder being vertically downwardly arranged."

Claim 2 has been amended "...an outer cylinder provided around an outer periphery of the substrate as its inner periphery **is in** contact with the outer periphery of the cap body, an inner cylinder provided along the through hole as its outer periphery **is in** contact with an inner periphery of the fixing member, the outer cylinder and the inner cylinder being vertically downwardly arranged."

Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

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Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shaw (U.S. Patent No. 4,427,110). The Office Action states, "the pressurizing member disclosed by Shaw does not comprise a through hole, which is an essential feature of the claimed invention."

Amended claim 8 recites, "arranging a pressurizing member above the sealing member, which has a through hole."

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaw, and further in view of Pamment (U.S. Patent No. 4,456,141).

The Office Action acknowledges that Shaw lacks a spring member. The Office Action relies on Pamment to attempt to cure the deficiencies of Shaw.

However, neither Shaw nor Pamment, individually or combined, at a minimum, teach or suggest, "a through hole" as recited in amended claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 5-7 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

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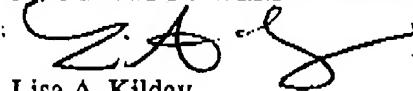
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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